



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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2011 Annual Meeting
Worcester, Massachusetts

REGULATION OF CHRYSANTHEMUM WHITE RUST (CWR) AS A REGULATED NON-QUARANTINE PEST (RNQP)

The current import regulation (7 CFR 319.27) specifies that CWR is a quarantined pest, requiring eradication when detected, whether in cut flowers, retail outlets, propagation, or production facilities. This requirement of eradication through destruction has severe economic impacts on both large and small-scale producers of chrysanthemums, while having minimal impact on the presence of CWR in the industry and environment as a whole.

CWR is a “weak” pathogen in terms of overwintering, spore viability, and dispersal. IPM systems are known and available to reduce the risk of CWR infestation and spread. Outreach to the grower/retail industries will help to encourage adoption of a systems approach including best management practices.

In 2009, EDP and PHP suggested that the current import regulation be revised through rulemaking to change the phytosanitary requirements for importation of chrysanthemum to propagative material only, designating CWR as a Regulated Non Quarantine Pest (RNQP). Under this plan, changes to domestic eradication protocol would include:

- The regulated article will be the cuttings produced for interstate commerce to growers for increase
- APHIS and/or state cooperators will conduct inspections of propagators’ operations to verify compliance
- The federal protocol for eradication in grower and retail establishments will be discontinued

This science-based, practical approach would ease the regulatory and financial burden of CWR on small growers and retailers, while continuing to protect large domestic propagators from imported infected cuttings.

RESOLVED, by the Eastern Plant Board at its 86th annual meeting in Worcester, Massachusetts, April 14, 2011, request USDA, APHIS change the phytosanitary requirements for importation of chrysanthemum to propagative material only, designating CWR as a Regulated Non Quarantine Pest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that APHIS PPQ produce outreach and training material in cooperation with industry and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to provide IPM guidance to retailers and small growers to lessen the economic impact if their crop should become infected.

DISTRIBUTION:

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